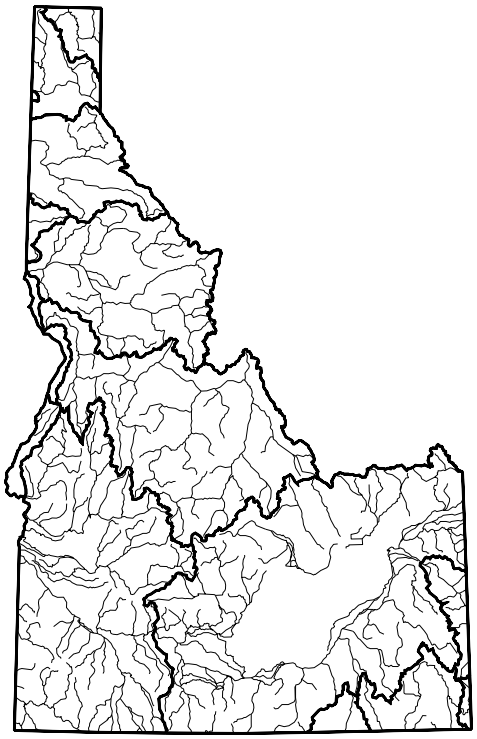
Idaho



— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Idaho 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Idaho reports that 33% of river and stream miles fully support uses, while 67% are impaired for one or more uses. Based on the state's proposed Section 303(d) list, the major causes of impairment in Idaho's rivers and streams include siltation, nutrients, thermal modifications, bacteria, habitat alterations, and oxygen-depleting substances. The state has not yet determined the sources of impairment to rivers and streams.

Information on lake use support was not included in Idaho's 1998 305(b) report because the state is currently developing a lake and reservoir beneficial use assessment process. Based on the state's proposed Section 303(d) list, the major causes of impairment in Idaho's lakes and reservoirs include oxygen-depleting substances, nutrients, acidity, toxic chemicals, mercury, and flow alterations.

Idaho did not report on the condition of wetlands.

Ground Water Quality

More than 90% of Idaho's residents use ground water as their domestic water supply. The major sources of ground water contamination in Idaho are agricultural activities, waste storage and disposal, mining, and hazardous material transportation.

Ground water quality data in Idaho come primarily from the Statewide Ambient Ground Water Quality Monitoring Network and the Public Water Systems. On a statewide basis, the ground water contaminants of greatest concern are nitrates, pesticides, and volatile organic compounds.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

EPA has primary responsibility for issuing NPDES permits in Idaho. The Idaho Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is concerned that EPA does not have the staff to issue new permits or revise and reissue old permits. Major discharges are inspected annually but minor discharges do not receive this attention.

The nonpoint source program in Idaho is administered on a watershed basis and includes provisions

for public education and technical protocol development. Project emphasis is placed on management effectiveness, beneficial use monitoring, public awareness, antidegradation, and endangered species issues.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Monitoring activities in Idaho have focused on beneficial uses and ambient water quality trends. Data from DEQ's monitoring are used to document the existence of uses, the degree of use support, and reference conditions. This monitoring is made up of primarily the collection of biological and physical data. The ambient trend monitoring network is designed to document water quality trends at the river basin and watershed scales through the collection of mainly water column constituent data. Biological parameters are being added to this network as well. Fifty-six monitoring stations are currently sampled on a rotating basis to provide data for water quality trend assessment.

Summary of Use Support[a] in Idaho

	Percent		
	Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Impaired (For One or More Uses)
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 115,595)[b]			
Total Miles Assessed	12,280	28	5	67
Lakes (Total Acres = 700,000)			
Total Acres Assessed	-	-	-	-

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.
[a] A summary of use support data is presented because Idaho did not report individual use support in their 1998 Section 305(b) report.
[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.